



# PURE LAND LEARNING COLLEGE ASSOCIATION INC. MULTI-FAITH MULTICULTURAL CENTRE

EVERYONE MATTERS - TOOWOOMBA, A MODEL CITY OF PEACE & HARMONY



May-June 2025, Issue 131

## CELEBRATING TEN YEARS OF VOICES OF FAITH ON AIR

We are proud to mark a remarkable milestone—ten incredible years of broadcasting Voices of Faith on Radio 102.7FM! Our heartfelt thanks go to all our guest speakers and dedicated listeners for your unwavering support over the past decade.

Proudly sponsored by the Pure Land Learning College Association, Voices of Faith has been sharing the richness and beauty of our community's diverse beliefs, customs and spiritual practices since 2015. The programme airs every Friday and Sunday from 6:00 to 6:30 pm, bringing together voices from across our wonderfully diverse city of Toowoomba.



We're excited to announce a brand-new series of interfaith conversations, featuring representatives from various faiths exploring eleven meaningful topics that speak to our shared values and humanity. The first three episodes aired in June—stay tuned for more inspiring discussions in the coming months.

Would you like to share your beliefs, traditions and cultural heritage with the wider community? We would love to hear from you! Please reach out to the Multi-faith Multicultural Centre (MMC) via DM or email us at [mfmcc.pllc@gmail.com](mailto:mfmcc.pllc@gmail.com).

You can listen to past episodes of Voices of Faith on our website: [www.interfaith-harmony.org](http://www.interfaith-harmony.org) under the 'Resources' tab. Let's continue building bridges through dialogue and understanding.







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## EXCITING NEWS: TOOWOOMBA'S JOURNEY TO BECOMING A PEACE CITY!

On 9 June, the Steering Committee for the Peace City Award—officially to be presented to Toowoomba on 30 August—had the honour of briefing Mayor Geoff McDonald on all the preparations and administrative arrangements.

We are truly inspired by the Mayor's warm and enthusiastic support! To celebrate this historic moment, Mayor McDonald will host a special Mayoral Reception: Meet & Greet to welcome Mr J. Frederick Arment, Chair of International Cities of Peace (Ohio, USA), along with the passionate local team who have worked tirelessly to bring this incredible global recognition to our city.

As the big day draws near, we invite you to be part of this remarkable journey. Don't miss the event details and registration information at the end of this newsletter!



## THE ABRAHAMIC FAITH GATHERING SERIES CONTINUES TO INSPIRE AND UNITE



On 7 May, our ongoing Abrahamic Faith Gathering brought us together to reflect on the uplifting theme of hope. We were honoured to hear insightful presentations from Reverend Dylan Migel, Imam Aminul Islam and Ari Heiber, whose thoughtful reflections created a meaningful and inspiring experience for all attendees.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to John Agnew, Chair of the series, for his steadfast dedication in fostering this space where we can celebrate and appreciate the rich diversity of our faiths, beliefs and practices.

## FAITH EXPLORATION SERIES: 'WHO IS MY G-D?' – A CELEBRATION OF UNDERSTANDING AND CONNECTION

On Saturday, 14 June 2025, the Multi-faith Multicultural Centre was honoured to collaborate with the Moreton Bay Goodwill Committee to present another inspiring session in the Faith Exploration Series, held on the picturesque grounds of the Abbey Church. Titled 'Who is My G-d?', this special gathering welcomed people from across the Moreton Bay and Caboolture region to explore profound spiritual insights from a range of traditions. The day began with a guided tour of the newly opened Art Gallery, offering participants a rich cultural and artistic experience.

The main programme featured three engaging speakers who shared reflections on the concept of God from diverse faith perspectives: Hinduism, Christianity (Uniting Church) and White Eagle Lodge. Their thoughtful presentations were followed by a moderated Q&A session and warm conversations over afternoon tea—creating space for learning, dialogue and genuine connection.

We sincerely thank the Moreton Bay Goodwill Committee for their ongoing efforts to promote peace, unity and mutual understanding in the region. We are grateful for the opportunity to support and contribute to this meaningful initiative.



## GETTING TO KNOW OUR PEACE AMBASSADOR IN OUR COMMUNITY: MR JOHN AGNEW



John Agnew's journey is one of resilience, faith and heartfelt service. As a retired farmer, John has weathered both bountiful harvests and challenging seasons — and through it all, his unwavering faith in God has been his guiding light. He counts his many blessings with gratitude and humility.

Celebrating an incredible fifty-nine years of marriage, John and his wife have built a loving family with two wonderful children, a daughter and a son. A lifelong Christian deeply committed to worship and community, John's passion for building bridges between faiths shines brightly. He proudly chairs Downs and Toowoomba Churches Together, a Christian ecumenical group, and leads the Toowoomba Interfaith Working Group (TIWG) with enthusiasm and vision.

For John, serving these groups is more than a role — it's a joyful mission. His humble dedication embodies the spirit of peace and unity that inspires us all.



## TOOWOOMBA TO BE OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED AS AN INTERNATIONAL CITY OF PEACE

We are thrilled to share a truly historic moment for our city — Toowoomba will be officially recognised as an International City of Peace on Saturday, 30 August 2025! This prestigious honour celebrates our shared commitment to peace, inclusion and cultural harmony — and you're warmly invited to be part of this milestone celebration.

Join us for the International Peace Conference 2025, themed 'Being a City of Peace'. The day will begin with a Tree Planting Ceremony at Picnic Point, followed by a full programme at St Patrick's Cathedral Centre. Expect a powerful mix of keynote speeches, interfaith prayers, meditation, cultural performances, thought-provoking dialogue circles and community panels featuring civic leaders, youth voices and peacebuilders from across our region.

Highlights include the official presentation of the International Cities of Peace Award, a keynote address by Mr J. Frederick Arment, and contributions from Mayor Geoff McDonald, Venerable Wu Shin and members of our vibrant interfaith and multicultural community. With free entry, lunch provided, and open to all, this is a rare opportunity to come together and reflect on what peace means to us — as individuals and as a city.

Whether you're a changemaker, a student, a community leader or someone who simply dreams of a more compassionate world — this event is for you.

Register now for FREE:

<https://events.humanitix.com/being-a-city-of-peace-international-peace-conference-2025>



## ABRAHAMIC FAITHS GATHERING – "HOW DO WE SHOW LOVE?"

Join us for an evening of interfaith connection and reflection on the theme "How do we show love?"

Speakers:

- ◆ Imam Mohammad Aminul Islam
- ◆ Mr Ariel Heber (Jewish Community Services)
- ◆ Fr Nandana Saparamadu (St Matthew's Catholic Church)

Includes short presentations, light dinner and open conversation.

Enquiries: Eric 0427 639 843 | John 4666 3225

Hosted by Garden City Mosque | Organised by Downs & Toowoomba Churches Together



**Wednesday, 6 August 2025**



**5:45 pm, followed by a light dinner**



**Garden City Mosque, Harristown QLD**